## REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Final Official Action mailed January 11, 2006. Claims 1-6 and 9-13 are pending in the subject application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-13. Applicant has amended claims 1-4, 6, and 9-13, and cancelled claims 7 and 8.

Applicant will sequentially address the issues raised by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by LEONG et al. (U.S. Patent 6,269,398). Independent claims 1 and 11-13 have been amended to more fully distinguish over the cited prior art and to simplify the claim language, as suggested by the Examiner. Dependent claims 2-4 and 6 have been amended to simplify the claim language, as suggested by the Examiner. Dependent claims 9-10 have been amended for consistency with independent claim 1. Dependent claims 7 and 8 have been cancelled.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-6, 9, and 10 based on the amendments to independent claim 1. Independent claim 1 is amended to recite an apparatus for managing a communication device including; an identifying table storing unit operable to store an identifying table having *a plurality of sets, each of said plurality of sets including a combination of an identifying condition and a corresponding check method*, where the identifying condition is for determining a type of an identified communication device satisfying the identifying condition, and the check method is for determining a function of the identified communication device; an identifying unit coupled to the identifying table storing unit, such that the identifying unit accesses the identifying table to determine *which identifying condition is satisfied by the communication device based on pre-determined priorities of each of the plurality of sets*; a communication unit coupled to the identifying unit, where the communication unit is for communicating with the communication device; a check unit coupled to an output of the identifying unit such that the check unit receives from the identifying unit the check method; *an input unit coupled to the identifying unit and operable for a user of the management apparatus to input the plurality of sets to be registered in the identifying table; a registration unit coupled to the input unit and the identifying table storage unit, and operable to register the plurality of sets*

*in the identifying table; and a priority setting unit coupled to the identifying table storing unit and the registration unit, and operable to set the priorities for each of the plurality of sets based on the identifying conditions of the plurality of sets.* The identifying table having a plurality of sets, each including a combination of an identifying condition and a corresponding check method, is incorporated in claim 1 from the original dependent claim 7. The identifying condition satisfied by the communication device based on pre-determined priorities of each of the plurality of sets is incorporated in claim 1 from the original dependent claim 7. The input unit element, the registration unit element, and the priority setting unit element are incorporated in claim 1 from the original dependent claim 8.

LEONG et al. does not teach or suggest an identifying table having *a plurality of sets, each of said plurality of sets including a combination of an identifying condition and a corresponding check method*, where the identifying condition is for determining a type of an identified communication device satisfying the identifying condition, and the check method is for determining a function of the identified communication device. LEONG et al. teaches a method and apparatus for managing routers, which are commonly utilized in computer networks. (col. 5, lines 44-46) However, LEONG et al. does not teach a management system that distinguishes *different types* of communication devices, then applies a check method *corresponding to each type of communication device* to determine device functions. LEONG et al. describes a common process for obtaining information from managed routers. "Information from the routers is generally obtained using the SNMP protocol," and there is a single basic method for polling routers to determine various types of router information. (col. 6, lines 17-19; col. 8, lines 49-50; FIG. 3(b)) There is no plurality of identifying conditions with corresponding check methods disclosed in LEONG et al. Rather, there is a single identifying condition with a single corresponding check method, because all devices are routers that are queried using the same basic polling method. This is fundamental to the invention of LEONG et al., a primary benefit of which is this common polling method for obtaining protocol information from all routers in a network. (col. 6, lines 29-35; col. 9, lines 32-42) Therefore, LEONG et al. teaches away from the use of a plurality of check methods in managing a communication network. In contrast, the subject invention enables convenient management of a network containing a

plurality of device types, each of which requires a potentially distinct check method to determine device functions. (Subject application FIG. 3; paragraph [0006]; paragraph [0007])

Furthermore, LEONG et al. does not teach or suggest *a priority setting unit coupled to the identifying table storing unit and the registration unit, and operable to set the priorities for each of the plurality of sets based on the identifying conditions of the plurality of sets*, where the identifying condition is for determining a type of an identified communication device satisfying the identifying condition. The priorities in LEONG et al. are set at system initiation time to control the number of polling requests and to reduce the number of packets to be sent by the management system. (col. 9, lines 7-17) There is no relationship taught between the priority setting and the type of communication device; rather, the priorities simply define a round-robin order for device polling. (col. 9, lines 14-27) When a group of devices is polled, its priority is modified from highest priority to lowest priority, and all other groups of devices will have their priorities raised by one level. (col. 9, lines 21-27) LEONG et al. therefore teaches away from a priority setting that depends on an identifying condition for a type of communication device, and that does not change in a round-robin fashion. On the other hand, in the subject application a narrow identifying condition, that identifies a device type including a smaller group of devices than a broad identifying condition, receives a higher priority than a broad identifying condition so that the device type can be determined as precisely as possible. (Subject application, paragraph [0087]) This narrower identifying condition is checked before the broader identifying condition for each device; there is no round-robin shifting of priorities. (Subject application, paragraph [0088])

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of independent claim 12 based on the amendments to that claim. The elements of claim 12 for a computer readable medium are essentially identical to the elements for apparatus claim 1. Therefore, the same arguments for amended claim 1 apply equally to amended claim 12.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of independent claim 11 based on the amendments to that claim. Independent claim 11 is amended to recite an apparatus for managing a communication device including; an identifying table storing unit operable to store an identifying table having *a plurality of sets, each of said plurality of sets including a combination of an identifying condition and a corresponding monitoring method*, where the identifying

condition is for determining a type of an identified communication device satisfying the identifying condition, and the monitoring method is for monitoring a status of the identified communication device; an identifying unit coupled to the identifying table storing unit, such that the identifying unit accesses the identifying table to determine *which identifying condition is satisfied by the communication device based on pre-determined priorities of each of the plurality of sets*; a communication unit coupled to the identifying unit, where the communication unit is for communicating with the communication device; a monitoring unit coupled to the identifying unit such that the monitoring unit receives from the identifying unit the monitoring method; *an input unit coupled to the identifying unit and operable for a user of the management apparatus to input the plurality of sets to be registered in the identifying table; a registration unit coupled to the input unit and the identifying table storage unit, and operable to register the plurality of sets in the identifying table; and a priority setting unit coupled to the identifying table storing unit and the registration unit, and operable to set the priorities for each of the plurality of sets based on the identifying conditions of the plurality of sets.* The identifying table having a plurality of sets, each including a combination of an identifying condition and a corresponding monitoring method, is supported. (paragraph [0043], lines 1-8; FIG. 3; paragraph [0084], lines 4-6) The identifying condition satisfied by the communication device based on pre-determined priorities of each of the plurality of sets is supported. (paragraph [0084], lines 4-6; paragraph [0087]; paragraph [0088]) The input unit coupled to the identifying unit and operable for a user of the management apparatus to input the plurality of sets to be registered in the identifying table is supported. (paragraph [0043], lines 1-5; paragraph [0084], lines 1-2) The registration unit coupled to the input unit and the identifying table storage unit, and operable to register the plurality of sets in the identifying table, is supported. (FIG. 2; paragraph [0047], lines 1-6; paragraph [0084]; lines 2-4) The priority setting unit coupled to the identifying table storing unit and the registration unit, and operable to set the priorities for each of the plurality of sets based on the identifying conditions of the plurality of sets, is supported. (FIG. 2; paragraph [0084], lines 4-9)

LEONG et al. does not teach or suggest an identifying table having *a plurality of sets, each of said plurality of sets including a combination of an identifying condition and a corresponding monitoring method*, where the identifying condition is for determining a type of

an identified communication device satisfying the identifying condition, and the monitoring method is for monitoring a status of the identified communication device. The arguments are the same as those for the corresponding limitation for claim 1 that refers to a corresponding check method rather than a corresponding monitoring method, since LEONG et al. refers to any operation that obtains information from routers without altering information as monitoring. (col. 1, lines 28-33) Therefore, as described earlier, there is no plurality of identifying conditions with corresponding monitoring methods disclosed in LEONG et al., and LEONG et al. teaches away from the use of a plurality of monitoring methods in managing a communication network. The subject invention enables convenient management of a network containing a plurality of device types, each of which requires a potentially distinct monitoring method to determine device functions. (Subject application FIG. 3; paragraph [0006]; paragraph [0007]; paragraph [0012])

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of independent claim 13 based on the amendments to that claim. The elements of claim 13 for a computer readable medium are essentially identical to the elements for apparatus claim 11. Therefore, the same arguments for amended claim 11 apply equally to amended claim 13.

For these reasons, LEONG et al. fails to show or suggest the subject matter that is defined by claims 1 and 11-13. Thus, claims 1 and 11-13 should be in a condition for allowance. Claims 2-6 and 9-10, dependent on claim 1, should also be in a condition for allowance.

Summary

In sum, all claims should be in a condition for allowance, which is respectfully solicited. If there are any residual issues that can be resolved with a telephone call, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned.

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